

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
EPA-01 AID-05 SIG-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04
SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 /119 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:BLONG:DR
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DR. KING
IO/SCT - J. TREVITHICK (DRAFT)
EPA - A. CYWIN (SUBS)
AID/AFR - C. ULINSKI (INFO)
AID/AFR - L. CLYBURN (INFO)
-----081614Z 126456 /43

O R 081445Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SENV,OCON, KE, NP

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR UN DESERTIFICA-
TION CONFERENCE

NAIROBI FOR NOZIGLIA AND ABERCROMBIE, KATHMAN DU (FOR WILSON
--AID), SANTIAGO (FOR CHEATHAM), TUNIS (FOR FERGUSON, AID)
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REF: STATE 77343 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE FOR
U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO DESERT CONFERENCE REGIONAL PRE-
PARATORY MEETINGS FOR AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA, NAIROBI,
12-16 APRIL (NOZIGLIA AND ABERCROMBIE) AND ASIA AND THE

PACIFIC, NEW DELHI, 19-23 APRIL (WILSON)

2. U.S. REPS HAVE PLAYED A LEAD ROLE IN FIRST TWO REGIONAL MEETINGS (IN SANTIAGO AND FARO, PORTUGAL), DRAWING IN LARGE PART ON USG VIEWS EXPRESSED IN TWO LETTERS TO UNEP EX. DIRECTOR TOLBA ON DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION (DOCUMENTS POUCHED TO YOU PREVIOUSLY). WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THESE VIEWS, PARTICULARLY THAT: (A) REGIONAL MEETINGS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING GREATER DEFINITION TO ACTION PLAN BASED ON IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND COMMON GOALS OF EACH REGION; (B) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AS OPPOSED TO PLANNING AND NEW RESEARCH; AND (C) PLAN SHOULD BE DESIGNED WITH CLEAR KNOWLEDGE OF ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN DESERTIFICATION FIELD BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM. TOLBA HAS TAKEN POSITION

THAT HE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRST TWO VIEWS, BUT THAT IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO INVENTORY ALL RELEVANT ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES. HE IS ALSO NOT HAPPY WITH USG POSITION ON INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

3. RESULTS OF FIRST TWO REGIONAL MEETINGS INDICATE LITTLE PROGRESS MADE IN ADDRESSING TWO OF MAJOR U.S. CONCERNS (ITEMS A AND C OF PARA. 2). ALSO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN PRE-OCCUPIED WITH INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ACTION PLAN, PARTICULARLY AS SET FORTH IN RECOMMENDATIONS 14 AND 15 OF THAT DOCUMENT. WE CONSIDER SUCH DISCUSSIONS TO BE PREMATURE, GIVEN FACT THAT SUBSTANCE OF PLAN NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET WELL DEFINED. ATTENTION TO INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS HAS GIVEN RISE TO SITUATION IN WHICH CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT IS FORCED TO JUSTIFY AND LOBBY FOR RECOMMENDATION ON NEW DESERTIFICATION UNIT IN UNEP, WITH MOST COUNTRIES AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES LINING UP IN OPPOSITION. THIS CLEARLY DETRACTING FROM MAJOR REQUIREMENT AT THIS STAGE, I.E., DECIDING ON WHAT THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF ACTION PLAN SHOULD BE.

4. SINCE USG VIEWS NOW WELL KNOWN BY UNEP, US REPS TO NAIROBI AND NEW DELHI SHOULD MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE. PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT WILL BE TO LEARN AND REPORT REACTIONS AND ROLE OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND UNEP SECRETARIAT WITHOUT MAJOR U.S. INPUT OR DIRECTION. US REPS SHOULD, HOWEVER, CONTRIBUTE TO ANY TECHNICAL DISCUSSION OF DESERTIFICATION PROBLEM AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DESERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES AND PLANS OF THE US AND OTHERS. REPS SHOULD AVOID DEBATING RELATIVE MERITS OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, FAL-

LING BACK ON VALID RESPONSE THAT SUCH DEBATE IS PREMATURE.

5. (FOR NOZIGLIA AND ABERCROMBIE): RELATION OF SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO UNEP PLAN OF ACTION VIEWED BY USG AS CRITICAL, A VIEW WE COMMUNICATED TO UNEP STAFF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT STEPS UNEP HAS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH LINKAGES OR OF CILSS COUNTRY ATTITUDES REGARDING THE CONFERENCE. CILSS AND DONOR COMMUNITY ARE PUTTING TOGETHER AND COSTING OUT A PROGRAM PACKAGE FOR SAHEL WITH FAR GREATER DETAIL THAN WHAT EXISTS IN CURRENT UNEP ACTION PLAN. WE ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW THIS SAHEL EXPERIENCE AND PROGRAM ARE BEING INTEGRATED IN CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND THE ACTION PLAN. REQUEST U.S. REPS PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS ASPECT, AND ESPECIALLY ANY INDICATION OF HOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES VIEW CONCEPT OF PROPOSED UNEP DESERTIFICATION UNIT WHICH,

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OSTENSIBLY, WOULD CONSIDER SAHEL PROGRAM AS ONE OF THE GLOBAL ELEMENTS IT WOULD COORDINATE.

6. (ACTION REQUIRED): UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 9-25, NAIROBI, WILL REVIEW DESERT CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND PLANS. U.S. DELEGATION TO UNEP GC WOULD BENEFIT FROM INFORMATION, INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM U.S. REPS TO REGIONAL MEETINGS. U.S. PREPARATORY TASK FORCE MEETS ON APRIL 27 TO PREPARE POSITION PAPER FOR DELEGATION. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE REQUESTS U.S. REPS TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON A BRIEF REPORT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE (WITH COPIES TO USUN, NAIROBI AND NEW DELHI, AS APPROPRIATE) ON FINAL DAY OF EACH REGIONAL MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DESERTIFICATION
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BLONG:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: STATE
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 77343
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2855474
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE NAIROBI FOR NOZIGLIA AND ABERCROMBIE, KATHMANDU
TAGS: SENV, OCON, KE, NP, US
To: NAIROBI KATHMANDU
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6271bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009